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BOOK REVIEWS.

THE LAW OF SALES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY. By Francis M. Burdick. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1901. pp. xii, 299.

SELECTED CASES ON THE LAW OF SALES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY. By Francis M. Burdick. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Boston : Little, Brown & Co., 1901. pp. xiii, 792.

Although this is the second edition of Professor Burdick's two books, it is our first opportunity of greeting them, and we do so with great pleasure.

In his Law of Sales the author has succeeded in presenting a clear and satisfactory treatment of an important branch of law within a very small compass. This edition contains about a quarter again as much matter as the first, and in it some sixteen hundred odd cases are discussed and their results formulated. All this means great condensation in a book of less than three hundred pages, but so skillfully is the work done that a careful reading leaves no impression of lack of proportion. Reference to many jurisdictions shows the author's care in searching for authorities and induces confidence in his results—a feeling too often lacking in books of this size. But to enumerate the good points of this little book would involve reprinting almost the entire table of contents; this would take space and is better seen at first hand. Deserving of special mention, however, are the two chapters dealing with the Rights and Duties of Buyers and Sellers, which contain unusually lucid expositions of some of the most confusing and unsettled questions of contract law.

It is almost ungracious to notice any faults among so many virtues, but it seems to us that there are two. One is that the Statute of Frauds, in its bearing on the law of Sales, receives only scattered treatment. In the preface to his first edition, the author attributes to this "an economy of space in the book," and "a like economy of time and perplexity on the part of the student." As to the first, he is the best judge, but as to the second we must respectfully differ from him, and express a regret that this edition did not see the matter discussed in a chapter by itself. The other fault is likewise one of arrangement. The book suffers from too much subdivision. From the student's point of view this is a mistake, for it confuses and makes what is really a thoroughly scientific treatment seem oftentimes fragmentary and discursive. To lawyers, of course, subdivision means time saved, and adds to the book's value for reference work.

Appendices containing typical provisions of the statutes of frauds in this country, and what corresponds to them in the French

and German codes, and a good discussion of Factor's acts and their interpretation by the courts, complete a book which is a most valuable contribution to the literature of its subject.

The Selected Cases is a companion book to the Law of Sales and the arrangement is similar. The selection of cases is discriminating and the sins of omission are few. There are no changes in the new edition, save that a supplement is added, containing some forty cases not included in the book as it first appeared.

A COMPILATION OF THE BAR EXAMINATION QUESTIONS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, SINCE 1896, WITH ANSWERS, REFERENCES AND NOTES. Edited by Wilson B. Brice. Albany: Matthew Bender. 1901. pp. 229.

If not taken too seriously or relied upon too confidently, this miscellaneous collection of questions and answers may prove of service to aspirants for the New York bar. But it is a paltry service, shabbily performed. Thrown together at haphazard, without rhyme or reason, full of vain repetitions, the same questions appearing again and again, with enough errors in the answers and citations to make the most eager student pause, and enough aberrations in grammar, style and proofreading to make the judicious grieve—the book is one to be used cautiously, if at all, and not to be used at all by any but the trained and practiced student.

But, assuming the work to have been well and not ill done, it may still be questioned whether a reputable member of the bar might not be better employed than in providing a cram-book for the hangers-on of the law schools and the law offices. A quiz-book, searching out and exposing the difficulties of the law in a series of carefully drawn questions, put forth without answers or citation of cases, is one thing. A compilation of bar examination questions which can have no other rational aim than that of furnishing the candidate with the materials of his coming examination, is another and very different thing. At a time when the bench and bar are struggling to raise the standard of legal education, it is a sorry service to the profession to cheapen the law examinations.

The writer of this review has not been created *censor morum* and so he does not venture to pass on the personal or the professional morality of the publication of examination questions which the examiners are, to the best of their ability and for the protection of their work, carefully guarding from public knowledge, and which have been gathered by the learned editor from the random recollections of candidates who have taken the examinations. *Quot homines, tot sententiae*; but if the State Bar Examiners choose to express their opinion of the matter, and will keep their expression within the bounds of literary decorum, we shall take pleasure in printing it as our sentiments.

If, after all this, any one buys the compilation, he may be comforted to find that the rules of the Court of Appeals relating to the admission of attorneys, as well as the rules regulating law examina-